Now, we maintain that we, who have the full Scriptures in our hands, have a better means of forming a full and attractive conception of our Lord than even those who lived in these apparently so favourable circumstances. In the writings of the Evangelists, we have his beautiful discourses, his striking parables, his casual remarks, all collected within a narrow compass, and a lively delineation of his conduct, with the particular incidents of it, by parties who lose sight of themselves in thinking of their Master, and never interpose to obstruct any of the light which comes from him. We, as it were—so lively is the painting—see Jesus acting, and hear him speaking, and that in a great variety of interesting and instructive circumstances. We see him while with his disciples, and with the Jewish doctors; amidst the acclamations of the people, and amidst their execrations too; as he rejoiced over the conversion of sinners, and as he grieved over their hardness of heart; as he pitied his enemies, and as he wept over the grave of a friend. We have all this, in books so simple, that a child can understand them, and so brief, that a little space of time will enable any one to peruse them.

Secondly, the Being whom we are expected to love is constantly bestowing favours upon us. We are willing to grant, that in ordinary circumstances, distance has a tendency to lessen the regard which friends entertain towards one another; but when we have around us constant memorials of our friend, the influence of separation will be counteracted. When the bereaved mourner, when the widower, for instance, looks around his dwelling, and sees in every part of it the peculiar property, or perhaps the very workmanship, of a beloved consort; and when the widow sees in every child that clusters around her knee the image of a lost husband,—they feel as if the departed were still present, and that amidst these memorials they can never forget

those of whom they are so reminded. Now, the believer feels himself to be thus surrounded by memorials of God in his works —in the heavens and earth, and in his wonderful providence.

The fact that God has made it adds a new lustre to every star, a new beauty to every flower, and the meanest of the works of God carry up the mind to the great Creator. Distance, we acknowledge, has a tendency to lessen the affection of friends; but this influence may be overborne when the friend *m* ever bestowing substantial favours. The believer does not feel that